

P20918.A01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Fred ZACOUTO et al.

Group Art Unit: 3738

Appln. No. : Unknown

(Continuation of US application 09/200,855)

Examiner: B. Snow

Filed : Concurrently herewith

For : SKELETAL IMPLANT

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir :

**Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner not issue an Office action until after three months from the filing date of this continuation application. Applicants are in the process of preparing additional revisions to the specification and a new set of claims which will replace the claims originally filed (i.e., claims 1-9) and expect to file the same within this three month period. Should the Examiner wish to examine this application sooner, he is invited to contact the undersigned in order to have the additional Preliminary Amendment filed earlier.**

Prior to calculating the filing fee and prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the following amendments

RE/A  
#2  
NDB  
3-7-02  
Fee OK